

MINUTES OF THE MISSION SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Monday, March 6, 2023 - 6:30 P.M.

City Hall

In attendance: John Arnett, Lynn Bain, Terri Baugh, Andy Hyland, Lauren Reiter-Schmid, Josh Thede

Council Liaison present: Councilmember Debbie Kring

Staff present: Emily Randel, Deputy City Administrator

Guests present: David Smith, Roeland Park Sustainability Commission; Kevin Schmidt, Mission Parks and Recreation Commission

I. Welcome and introductions

Lauren Reiter-Schmid chaired the meeting for Ellen Parker who was away. Lauren welcomed everyone to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves.

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Sustainability Moment(s)

The group discussed the new KCI terminal and the elements contributing to the building's LEED Gold certification. Josh Thede shared that the solar panels at his home have been activated and are now generating energy. Lynn Bain has established a challenge to members of her church to "Ditch the Bag" to use reusable shopping bags for the month.

** Councilmember Kring left the meeting. **

IV. Presentation from Timothy Wholf, Director of Johnson County Department of Aging and Human Services

The Sustainability Commission invited Mr. Wholf to speak to the group about the variety of services offered through the Department of Aging and Human Services. Understanding and promoting the Department's services supports Mission's Communities for All Ages goals. Mr. Wholf shared the sources of funding that support the department's programs. He emphasized that Johnson County residents and their families are encouraged to call 913-715-8861 as the first place to try for services related to older adults. Three staff people are available to answer that line and will refer concerns to the right place. Mr. Wholf discussed the nutrition and outreach programs and stabilization program for utilities, medicine and limited rental assistance and transportation services. Multi-Service Center qualifications are set at income level based at or below 200% poverty level.

The group discussed Mission demographics and the suspected gap between those currently receiving services and the likely need.

Mr. Wholf distributed hard copies of two publications: “Explore Your Options” Service Directory and the “All About Me” booklet. More copies are available of each if the City should request them.

V. Approval of the February 6, 2023 Meeting Minutes

John Arnett moved to approve the meeting minutes. Terri Baugh seconded the motion. The Commission approved the motion.

VI. Climate Action Update

Emily Randel shared that the MARC Climate Environment Council is continuing to make progress and she has participated on a sub-committee focused on speeding local government action. MARC will host a meeting in April of the sustainability/climate action point people from as many cities in the metro as possible. This will be a starting point for more coordinated action on behalf of climate in weeks and months to come. There is a lot of activity happening on all fronts in the organizations represented by members of the Council which is encouraging to see.

Emily Randel updated the group about the final stages of data gathering for the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory with Lotus Sustainability and Engineering. She asked the group their opinion on hosting a community-facing event with neighboring cities to share the results of the inventory. One benefit is to raise general awareness about emissions at the community level. Mission will likely have similar findings to other cities in northeast Johnson County, and the next steps to reduce emissions could be conducive to work with other cities. The group felt it would be particularly valuable to invite environmental groups from each city as well as the environmental clubs at the high schools. This meeting would likely occur after a review of the information with the Mission City Council and could have interactive elements or small group activities.

Emily requested help in structuring the energy audit grant program for 2023 at the February Sustainability Commission meeting, but did not coordinate a meeting since that time. She will send a virtual meeting request for Monday, March 13 at noon.

VII. Sub-Committee Updates

- Communities for All Ages

(Cathy Boyer-Shesol, John Arnett, Ellen Parker) No report beyond Tim Wholf’s presentation. The Commission will work to promote the excellent information shared by Tim Wholf in this meeting’s presentation.

- Recycling

(Terri Baugh, Josh Thede, Mike Patterson, Lynn Bain)

Terri Baugh coordinated volunteers for a recycling table at the Eggstravaganza.

Terri Baugh suggested Wednesday, April 19 for a Smart recycling workshop at the Community Center during Earth Week.

John Arnett mentioned some alternative times for sorting batteries in order to include more people who have difficult time arriving earlier than 6:30 for meetings, to work through some of the backlog. He will ask Ellen Parker her thoughts about what might be best for the group.

- Communications

(Andy Hyland, Lauren Reiter-Schmid, Mike Patterson)

Andy Hyland will create an article on the aging services and Emily Randel will see about including the phone number included on the bulletin board in the Mission Magazine.

- Sustainability Scorecard

(Josh Thede, Ramsey Attaria, Mike Patterson, Lauren Reiter-Schmid, Andy Hyland, Terri Baugh)
No report.

VIII. Standing Updates

- Parks, Recreation and Tree Commission Update

Kevin Schmidt reported on the recent activities including the progress on Mohawk Park Phase I improvements are on scheduled to be complete in April 2023.

- Council Liaison report

There was no Council Liaison report.

- Staff Updates

The budget season will begin with a work session Wednesday, March 15 at 6 p.m. The City is currently hiring for positions of Budget and Finance Manager, Building Inspector and Public Safety Clerk. New hires in the positions of Recreation Coordinator and Mechanic will be starting soon.

IX. Reminders and Announcements

Emily Randel mentioned the Rushton groundbreaking that happened earlier in the day.

Sign-up for the Earth Day clean-up is now live. Participants are invited to sign up online. If the members of the Sustainability Commission would like to sign up, they should just mention the S.C. to be assigned together.

X. Review of Action Items

XI. Adjourn

John Arnett moved to adjourn the meeting. Josh Thede seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Sustainability Commission will be in person at Mission City Hall on Monday, April 3, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.